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COORDINATION COMMISSION PLANS METAL PLANTS

Recent developments in economic planning include the following:

On 7 January 1950, the cabinet resolved to create a commission for the coordination of work and arrangements connected with the planned construction of metallurgical plants in the Ostrava region. Dr Engr Edward Outrata, deputy chairmon of the State Flanning Office, was appointed chairman of this commission.

The economic tasks of kraj national committees are entrusted to several referents, including those of planning, accommic, agricultural, and supply.

The JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives), the youngest branch of the cooperative movement, have been in the process of establishment since the winter of 1949. There are now 1,530 approved JZD and 767 preparatory committees in the Czech provinces. There are 6,287 agricultural and electric power cooperatives from which the JZD are to be formed, and about 400 other similar cooperatives. Membership in the JZD is voluntary. The purchase program of agricultural produce, cattle and other livestock, milk and other products, has been entrusted exclusively to the cooperatives. Private business has been entirely excluded from the purchase program. The purchase program for grain and potatoes, however, has not been organized by all the cooperatives so that tit will be carried out on schedule. The total membership in the cooperatives is about 685,000.

On 17 January 1950, the cabinet approved an act which prohibits further relocation of offices and enterprises in or into Prague. On the one hand, it stabilizes for the time being the present allocation of space and, on the other hand, it prohibits further concentration of administration in congested Prague. A government commission is to discuss the claims of individual offices and enterprises as far as their location is concerned. It will submit to the cabinet a plan for a balanced allocation and rational concentration on the basis of an investigation and evaluation of concrete proposals.

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